relevant figures of import from China and Korea for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (as given below) does not show any increase:

Import figures for farm machinery like Agriculture/Horticulture/Forestry machinery including harvesting/threshing machinery etc. (Falling under ITC codes 8432, 8433, 8435, 8436, 8437, 8438)

Country	April 00-March 01 (in crores)	April 01-March 02 (in crores)	Growth rate
China	14.25	13.11	-7.96%
Korea	3.09	1.61	-48.04%

Import of edible oil

1087. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Government's assessment country's edible oil imports may cross 50 lakh tones, surpassing the earlier high of 48.33 lakh tones in 2000-2001 oil year;

(b) if so, whether the imports in November, 2002 have increased by 20.8 per cent to 3.3 lakh tones from 2.7 lakh tones in the corresponding month last year;

(c) if so, what was the total shortfall of rabi crops; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the shortage of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The quantity of edible oil imported during 2000-01, 2001-02, November 2001 & November 2002 is as under:—

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
2000-2001	41.8
2001-2002	42.1
November 2001	4.3
November 2002	3.4

(c) According to advance estimates, the total production of Rabi

Oilseeds during the year 2002-03 is 69.9 lakh tonnes as against the target of 111.0 lakh tonnes. The shortfall in production of oilseeds has been due to severe drought conditions during the current year.

(d) In order to increase the oilseed production in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the scheme financial assitance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhyzobium culture and micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R.

Joint trade by Russia and India

1088. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost flagging bilateral trade, India and Russia have agreed to explore joint possibilities of regional trade and economic co-operation agreements with other countries in harmony with their respective national interests;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement reached in this regard between the two countries; and

(c) to what extent efforts have been made to improve the trade with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) A Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation was signed on 4th December 2002 by the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russain Federation. *Inter-alia*, it has been stated that "the two Governments will jointly explore possibilities of regional trade and economic cooperation arrangements with other countries in a manner that is in harmony with their respective national interests."